

GUIDELINES FOR STUDIES FOR REQUEST TO DESIGNATE SECTIONS OF STATE
HIGHWAY SYSTEM ROADS AS TWIN-TRAILER ROUTES

General Statute 20-115.1 subsection (g) states "Under certain conditions, and after consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the North Carolina Department of Transportation may designate state highway system roads in addition to those highways designated by the United States Secretary of Transportation for use by the vehicle combinations authorized in this section. Such designations by the Department shall only be made under the following conditions:

- (1). A determination of the public convenience and need for such designation;
- (2). A traffic engineering study which clearly shows the road proposed to be designated can safely accommodate and has sufficient capacity to handle these vehicles combinations; and
- (3). A public hearing is held or the opportunity for a public hearing is provided in each county through which the designated highway passes, after two weeks notice posted at the courthouse and published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county through which the designated state highway system road passes, and consideration is given to the comments received prior to the designation.

Attachment 3

No portion of the state highway system within municipal corporate limits may be designated by the Department without concurrence by the municipal governing body. Also, the Department may not designate any portion of the state highway system that has been deleted or exempted by the United States Secretary of Transportation based on safety considerations."

In order to comply with Number 2 listed above the following steps must be taken when conducting the traffic engineering study:

1. Determine that lanes are wide enough to accommodate the twin-trailer traffic.
2. Determine widths and condition of shoulders along the section of road.
3. Study the existing alignment, both vertical and horizontal, to determine if any locations would cause problems to twin-trailer trucks.
4. Determine width of bridges and underpasses along the section of road.
5. Determine speed limit along section of road.
6. Investigate each intersection or location where twin-trailer trucks would be required to make a turn to be sure that the maneuver can be made safely.

7. Determine grades along road to be sure they would not be detrimental to twin-trailer trucks.
8. Discuss section of road with local Highway Patrol to get their input as to whether or not the section of road can safely accommodate twin-trailer trucks.
9. Determine if the section of road passes by or near any public or private school. If so, investigate safety conditions at or near the school to determine if twin-trailer trucks would have any affect.
10. Determine if the section of road passing through any municipality so that the governing body of the municipality may be contacted.
11. Determine traffic volume along section of road to be sure that section of road has capacity to handle twin-trailer trucks.
12. Prepare engineering report to State Highway Administrator with recommendations for or against designating section of road as twin-trailer route.